

--16. A mold for vulcanizing a tire comprising axially opposite sidewalls and a tread band molded with a raised pattern formed with at least one circumferential groove, said mold comprising:

a pair of axially opposite cheeks that correspond to the sidewalls of the tire; and
a matrix corresponding to the tread band interposed between said pair of axially opposite cheeks, said matrix including a plurality of ribs, which project in a raised configuration from a radial interior surface of the mold, for forming the raised pattern;
wherein a sectional profile of said radial interior surface comprises two concave side portions, each being defined by a respective center and a respective radius of curvature, and

wherein ridges of the ribs in an area between the two concave side portions define a radially inwardly convex surface tangent.

17. The mold of claim 16, wherein said concave side portions each have a radius of curvature ranging from about 150 mm to about 300 mm.

18. The mold of claim 16, wherein said convex surface tangent has a radius of curvature ranging from about 20 mm to about 150 mm.

19. The mold of claim 16, wherein said at least one circumferential groove corresponds to a central rib centered on an equatorial plane of the mold.

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